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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/798,671	03/11/2004	Jeffery Arnold Hales	0960-029	6310

7590 01/09/2008  
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EXAMINER
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JAKOVAC, RYAN J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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4121

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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01/09/2008

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/798,671	<b>Applicant(s)</b> HALES ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> RYAN J. JAKOVAC	<b>Art Unit</b> 4121	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03/11/2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)          | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

Claims 1-3 are pending.

Claims 1-3 are rejected.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by BusinessWeek Online May 27, 2002, "A New Job for Wall Sockets: Networking" (hereinafter HomePlug).

Regarding claim 1, HomePlug teaches a system with a bi-directional bridge (media converter) between a Power Line Communications (PLC) based network and a coaxial based network wherein the PLC side provides the Wide Area Network connection and the coaxial side provides a Local Area Network connection and bi-directional bridge allows the bi-directional transport of standard media protocols from the high or medium voltage Wide Area Network side to low voltage requirements of the coaxial networks (HomePlug, paragraph 2-3, The Powerline Etherfast 10/100 bridge connects to computing devices with a standard Ethernet port. The HomePlug adapters plug into the electrical outlets which then connect to computers using Ethernet, cable, DSL, or broadband connections.).

Regarding claim 2, HomePlug teaches the system with the bi-directional bridge of claim 1 wherein RF signals containing the standard media protocols are conveyed

over the PLC based networks to a media converter located associated with a building with at least one dwelling unit (HomePlug, paragraph 7 discloses communications over AC power lines running at 110 to 230 volts and at 50 or 50 Hertz.).

Regarding claim 3, HomePlug teaches the system with the bi-directional bridge of claim 2 further comprising at least one additional media converter to allow the extension of the Wide Area Network to support the deployment of broadband services across a physically dispersed area without the requirement for separate and unique Wide Area Network connections (HomePlug, paragraph 3-4, Homeplug devices enable communication services throughout separate rooms of a house.).

2. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. U.S. 2003/0235236 discloses communications through power lines. U.S. 6,040,759 discloses a broadband communications through electrical power cables. U.S. 6,480,510 discloses a LAN using electrically-conducting media such as in-house telephone or electrical wiring.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to RYAN J. JAKOVAC whose telephone number is

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(571)270-5003. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 7:30 am to 5:00 pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Taghi T. Arani can be reached on (571) 272-3787. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

RJ

/Taghi T. Arani/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 4121  
1/4/2007